

### Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

Sample test questions are available at <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/WAA>. These questions are similar to actual test questions that may be asked on the WAA-SwD. Current WAA-SwD test questions are not released.

### What are the Wisconsin Extended Grade Band Standards?

The Extended Grade Band Standards are descriptions of what students with significant disabilities are expected to know and be able to do at the appropriate grade level. These standards are linked to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. The Extended Grade Band Standards were developed by teams of Wisconsin educators including general education teachers, special education teachers, and content specialists. Information on the Extended Grade Band Standards is available at [http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped\\_assmt-extstd](http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_assmt-extstd).



Tony Evers  
State Superintendent  
Wisconsin Department  
of Public Instruction  
PO Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841

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## Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities

### Parent Information 2014-15



For more information contact  
the Office of Student Assessment  
[osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov)

## **What is the Wisconsin Student Assessment System?**

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is a comprehensive statewide program designed to provide information about what students know in core academic areas and whether they can apply what they know. All students will be administered assessments. Students with significant cognitive disabilities are assessed through alternate assessments.

## **What is the WAA-SwD?**

The Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) assesses the academic progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Instruction for these students is based upon the Wisconsin Extended Grade Band Standards and reflects the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. The WAA-SwD, in grades 4, 8 and 10, measures achievement in science utilizing a multiple choice format. Scores for social studies are determined through teacher rating scales, based upon classroom evidence, and reported with WAA-SwD test results.

## **How are the test results used?**

The WAA-SwD test results provide information about student achievement. To obtain a more complete picture, daily class work, other test results, homework, and other learning activities should be considered. Please talk to teachers and counselors about how the WAA-SwD information can be used with school and classroom information to help your child meet his or her educational goals. School

district staff use test results to improve educational programs.

WAA-SwD results are used by the Department of Public Instruction in order to

- meet its legal requirement of identifying low-performing schools as determined by s. 115.38(4), Wis. Stats;
- meet the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requirements of using high-quality assessments to determine how well students are learning;
- meet the federal Title I (NCLB) requirement to determine adequate progress in Title I schools; and
- determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet the Wisconsin proficiency standards.

## **What type of scores will be provided?**

The WAA-SwD provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin established Extended Grade Band Standards. Students receive scores based on their performance.

- **WAA-SwD Advanced** - Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires no support in instructional settings to demonstrate consistent understanding and mastery of the content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.
- **WAA-SwD Proficient** - Demonstrates understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires no support in instructional settings to demonstrate understanding and mastery of the

content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.

- **WAA-SwD Basic** - Demonstrates some understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires some support in instructional settings to demonstrate understanding of the content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.
- **WAA-SwD Minimal Performance** - Demonstrates an emerging understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires significant support in instructional settings to demonstrate understanding of the content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.

## **When does WAA-SwD testing take place?**

The WAA-SwD will be administered October 27-November 7, 2014. The WAA-SwD is not a timed test. Each student is administered the test on an individual basis. A student may take the test over several days, as long as it is completed within the testing window. The total time required to administer the test varies; however, it is estimated to take in total one hour.

## **How to prepare your child for the WAA-SwD**

Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast. Avoid any disruptions in your child's daily routines during testing days.